

SER

Shall I the neighbours nightly rest invade,
At her deaf doors, with some vile *serenade*? *Dryden.*
Will fancies he never should have been the man he is, had
not he broke windows, and disturbed honest people with his
midnight *serenades*, when he was a young fellow. *Adelphi.*
To *SERENADE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To entertain with
nocturnal music.
He continued to *serenade* her every morning, 'till the queen
was charmed with his harmony. *Spektor.*
SERENE. *adj.* [from *seren*, French; *serenus*, Latin.]
1. Calm; placid; quiet.
Spirits live insph'rd
In regions mild, of calm and *serene* air. *Milton.*
The moon, *serene* in glory, mounts the sky. *Pope.*
2. Unruffled; undisturbed; even of temper; peaceful or calm of
mind; shewing a calm mind.
There wanted yet a creature might erect
His stature, and upright with front *serene* *Milton.*
Exciting them, by a due remembrance of all that is past,
unto future circumspection, and a *serene* expectation of the
future life. *Gray's Cypsel.*
SERENA. *n. f.* An obstruction in the optic nerve.
These eyes that roll in vain,
So thick a drop *serene* hath quench'd their orbs. *Milton.*
SERENE. *n. f.* [from the adjective.] A calm damp evening.
Where ever death doth please to appear,
Seas, *serenes*, fwords, shot, sickness, all are there. *Ben. Jonson.*
To *SERENE*. *v. a.* [from *seren*, French; *serenus*, Latin.]
1. To calm; to quiet.
2. To clear; to brighten. Not proper.
Take care
Thy muddy bevrage to *serene*, and drive
Precipitant the baser rosy lees. *Philips.*
SERENELY. *adv.* [from *serene*.]
1. Calmly; quietly.
The setting sun now shone *serenely* bright. *Pope.*
2. With unruffled temper; coolly.
Whatever practical rule is generally broken, cannot be sup-
posed innate; it being impossible that men would, without
fame or fear, confidently and *serenely* break a rule, which they
could not but evidently know that God had set up. *Lake.*
I he nymph did like the scene appear,
Serenely pleasant, calmly fair: }
Soft fell her words as flew the air. *Prior.*
SERENESS. *n. f.* [from *serene*.] Serenity.
SERENITUDE. *n. f.* [from *serene*.] Calmness; coolness of
mind. Not in use.
From the equal distribution of the phlegmatick humour,
will flow quietude and *serenitude* in the affections. *Watson.*
SERENITY. *n. f.* [from *seren*, Fr. from *serenus*, Latin.]
1. Calmness; temperance.
In the constitution of a perpetual equinox, the best part of
the globe would be desolate; and as to that little that would
be inhabited, there is no reason to expect that it would con-
stantly enjoy that admitted calm and *serenity*. *Bentley.*
Pure *serenity* apace
Induces thought, and contemplation still. *Thomson.*
2. Peace; quietness; not disturbance.
A general peace and *serenity* newly succeeded a general
trouble and cloud throughout all his kingdoms. *Temple.*
3. Evenness of temper; coolness of mind.
I cannot see how any men should ever transgress those mor-
tal rules, with confidence and *serenity*, were they innate, and
stamped upon their minds. *Lake.*
SERGE. *n. f.* [from *serge*, French; *serge*, Spanish, which *Covarruvias*
derives from *serice*, Arabic; *Skinner* from *serge*, Ger-
man. a mat.] A kind of cloth.
The same wool one man felts into a hat, another weaves
into cloth, another into kersey or *serge*, and another into
arras. *Hale.*
Ye weavers, all your shuttles throw,
And bid broad-cloaths and *serges* grow. *Gay.*
SERGEANT. *n. f.* [from *sergent*, French; *sergente*, Italian, from
sergens, Latin.]
1. An officer whose business it is to execute the commands of
magistrates.
Had I but time, as this fell *sergent*, death,
Is strict in his arrest, oh, I could tell. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
When it was day the magistrates sent the *sergents*, saying,
let these men go. *Acts xvi. 35.*
2. A petty officer in the army.
This is the *sergent*,
Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
3. A lawyer of the highest rank under a judge.
None should be made *sergents*, but such as probably might
be held fit to be judges afterwards. *Bacon.*
4. It is a title given to some of the king's servants: as, *sergent*
chirurgiens.
SERGEANTRY. *n. f.* [from *sergent*.]
Grand *sergeantry* is that where one holdeth lands of the
king by service, which he ought to do in his own person unto
him: as to bear the king's banner or his spear, or to lead his

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host, or to be his marshal, or to blow a horn, when he seeth
his enemies invade the land; or to find a man at arms to fight
within the four seas, or else to do it himself; or to bear the
king's sword before him at his coronation, or on that day to
be his fewer, carver, butler, or chamberlain. Petit *sergeantry*
is where a man holdeth land of the king, to yield him yearly
some small thing toward his wars: as a sword, dagger, bow,
knife, spear, pair of gloves of mail, a pair of spurs, or such
like. *Crest.*
SERGEANTSHIP. *n. f.* [from *sergent*.] The office of a sergeant.
SERIES. *n. f.* [from *serie*, Fr. *series*, Latin.]
1. Sequence; order.
Draw out that antecedent, by reflecting briefly upon the text
as it lies in the *series* of the epistle. *Ward of Inquency.*
The chafms of the correspondence I cannot supply, having
destroyed too many letters to preserve any *series*. *Pope.*
2. Succession; course.
This is the *series* of perpetual woe,
Which thou, alas, and thine are born to know. *Pope.*
SERIOUS. *adj.* [from *serius*, Fr. *serius*, Latin.]
1. Grave; solemn; not volatile; not light of behav' *Pope.*
2. Important; weighty; not trifling.
I'll hence to London on a *serious* matter. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
There's nothing *serious* in mortality;
All is but toys. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
SERIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *serious*.] Gravely; solemnly; in
earnest; without levity.
It cannot but be matter of very dreadful consideration to
any one, sober and in his wits, to think *seriously* with himself,
what horror and confusion must needs surprize that man, at
the last day of account, who had led his whole life by one
rule, when God intends to judge him by another. *South.*
All laugh to find
Unthinking plainness so o'erspread thy mind,
That thou couldst *seriously* persuade the crowd
To keep their oaths, and to believe a god. *Dryden.*
Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Lactantius, and Amobius, tell
us, that this martyrdom first of all made them *seriously* in-
quisitive into that religion, which could endure the mind with so
much strength, and overcome the fear of death, nay, raise an
earnest desire of it, though it appeared in all its terrors. *Adelphi.*
SERIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *serious*.] Gravity; solemnity; ear-
nest attention.
That spirit of religion and *seriousness* vanished all at once,
and a spirit of libertinism and profaneness flared up in the
room of it. *Atterbury's Sermon.*
The youth was received at the door by a servant, who then
conducted him with great silence and *seriousness* to a long gal-
lery, which was darkened at noon-day. *Adelphi's Spectator.*
SERMENATION. *n. f.* [from *sermo*, Latin.] The act or
practice of making speeches.
SERMOCINATOR. *n. f.* [from *sermo*, Latin.] A preacher; a
speechmaker.
These obsequious *sermocinators* make easy impression upon
the minds of the vulgar. *Haw.*
SERMON. *n. f.* [from *sermo*, Fr. *sermo*, Lat.] A discourse of instruc-
tion pronounced by a divine for the edification of the people.
As for our *sermons*, be they never so sound and perfect, God's
word they are not, as the *sermons* of the prophets were; no,
they are but ambiguously termed his word, because his word is
commonly the subject whereof they treat, and must be the
rule whereby they are framed. *Haw.*
This our life, exempt from publick haunts,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing. *Shakespeare. As You Like It.*
In his *sermons* unto the soldiers, and in open talk with the
nobility, it should seem that he himself had been enough to
have overthrown the Turks. *Knot's History of the Turks.*
Sermons he heard, yet not so many
As left no time to practise any;
He heard them reverently, and then
His practice preach'd them o'er again. *Cresswell.*
Many, while they have preached Christ in their *sermons*,
have read a lecture of atheism in their practice. *South.*
His preaching much, but more his practice wrought;
A living *sermon* of the truths he taught. *Dryden.*
To *SERMON*. *v. a.* [from *sermo*, Fr. from the noun.]
1. To discourse as in a sermon.
Some would rather have good discipline delivered plainly by
way of precept, or *sermon* d'at large, than thus cloudily in-
wrapped in allegorical devices. *Spenser.*
2. To tutor; to teach dogmatically; to lesson.
Come, *sermon* me no farther:
No villainous bounty yet hath pall my heart. *Shakespeare. Timon.*
SERMONTAIN, or *Serai*. *n. f.* [from *serai*, Lat.] A plant.
It hath a rose and umbellated flower, consisting of several
leaves, which are ranged orbicularly, and rest on the empalement,
which becomes a fruit composed of two large oblong
furrowed seeds, having foliaceous ridges on one side. To
these notes must be added, that the lobes of the leaves are
large, long, and intire, excepting their extremity, where they
are slightly cut into three parts. *Miller.*

SERO'SITY.

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SERO'SITY. *n. f.* [from *sero*, Fr.] Thin or watery part of the
blood.
In these the salt and lixiviated *serosity* is divided between the
guts and the bladder; but it remains undivided in birds. *Brown.*
The tumour of the throat, which occasions the difficulty of
swallowing and breathing, proceeds from a *serosity* obstructing
the glands, which may be watery, cadematose, and scirrhous,
according to the viscosity of the humour. *Arbutnot.*
SEROUS. *adj.* [from *serus*, French; *serus*, Latin.]
1. Thin; watery. Used of the part of the blood which sepa-
rates in congelation from the grumous or red part.
2. Adapted to the serum.
This disease is commonly an extravasation of serum, re-
ceived in some cavity of the body; for there may be also a
drop by a dilatation of the *serous* vessels, as that in the ova-
rium. *Arbutnot on Diet.*
SERPENT. *n. f.* [from *serpens*, Latin.] An animal that moves
by undulation without legs. They are often venomous. They
are divided into two kinds; the *viper*, which brings young,
and the *snake*, that lays eggs.
She was arrayed all in lily white,
And in her right hand bore a cup of gold,
With wine and water filled up to the height;
In which a *serpent* did himself ensnarl,
That horror made to all that did behold. *Fairy Queen.*
She struck me with her tongue,
Most *serpent* like, upon the very heart. *Shakespeare. K. Lear.*
They, or under ground, or circuit wide,
With *serpent* error wand'ring, sound their way. *Milton.*
Haply piercing through the dark disguise,
The chief I challeng'd: he whose praetis'd wit
Knew all the *serpent* mazes of deceit,
Eludes my search. *Pope's Odyssey.*
SERPENTINE. *adj.* [from *serpens*, Lat. from *serpent*.]
1. Resembling a serpent.
I craved of him to lead me to the top of this rock, with
meaning to free him from so *serpentine* a companion as I
am. *Sidney.*
This of ours is described with legs, wings, a *serpentine* and
winding tail, and a crest or comb somewhat like a cock. *Brown.*
Nothing wants, but that thy shape
Like his, and colour *serpentine*, may thow
Thy inward fraud. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
The figures and their parts ought to have a *serpentine* and
flaming form naturally: these sorts of outlines have, I know
not what of life and seeming motion in them, which very
much resembles the activity of the flame and serpent. *Dryden.*
2. Winding like a serpent; sinistrous.
Nor can the sun
Perfect a circle, or maintain his way
One inch direct; but where he rose to-day
He comes no more, but with a cozening line
Steals by that point, and so is *serpentine*. *Denne.*
His hand the adorned firmament display'd,
Those *serpentine*, yet constant motions made. *Sandys.*
How many spacious countries does the Rhine,
In winding banks, and mazes *serpentine*,
Traverse, before he splits in Belgia's plain,
And, lost in sand, creeps to the German main? *Blackmore.*
SERPENTINE. *n. f.* An herb.
SERPENTINE STONE. *n. f.*
There were three species of this stone known among the
ancients, all resembling one another, and celebrated for the
same virtues. They were all of the marble kind: the one
was green, variegated with spots of black, thence called the
black ophites; another, called the white ophites, was green
also, but variegated with spots of white: the third was called
tephria, and was of a grey colour, variegated with small black
spots. The first species was chiefly used in medicine, and
found by the ancients only in Egypt; but it is frequent in the
deserts of Arabia, in the islands of the Archipelago, in Italy,
and we have whole quarries of it in Wales. The ancients tell
us, that it was a certain remedy against the poison of the bite
of serpents; but it is now justly rejected. *Hill's Mat. Med.*
Accept in good part a bottle made of a *serpentine stone*,
which hath the quality to give any wine or water, that shall be
infused therein for four and twenty hours, the taste and opera-
tion of the spaw-water, and is very medicinal for the cure
of the spleen and gravel. *Watt n.*
SERPENTS TONGUE. *n. f.* An herb. *Ainsworth.*
SERPENT. *n. f.* A bait. *Ainsworth.*
SERPENTIOUS. *adj.* [from *serpens*, Latin.] Diseased with a
serpigo.
The skin behind her ear downwards became *serpiginous*, and
was covered with white scales. *Warton.*
SERPIGO. *n. f.* [Latin.] A kind of tetter.
For thy own howels, which do call thee fire,
Do curse the gout, *serpigo*, and the rheum,
For ending thee no sooner. *Shakespeare.*
She had a node with pains on her right leg, and a *serpigo* on
her right hand. *Warton.*
To *SERRA*. *v. a.* [from *serra*, French.] To drive hard together; to

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crowd into a little space. Not received into use, nor deserving
reception.
The frowning and knitting of the brows is a gathering or
sering of the spirits, to resist in some measure; and also this
knitting will follow upon earnest studying, though it be with-
out dislike. *Bacon's Nat. History.*
Heat attenuates and sends forth the spirit of a body, and
upon that the more gross parts contract and *ser* themselves
together. *Bacon.*
SERRATE. *adj.* [from *serratus*, Latin.] Formed with jags or
SERRATED. *indentures* like the edge of a saw.
All that have *serrate* teeth are carnivorous. *Ray.*
The common heron hath long legs for wading, a long neck
answerable thereto to reach prey, a wide throat to pouch it,
and long toes with strong hooked talons, one of which is re-
markably *serrate* on the edge. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
This stick is usually knotted, and always armed: one of
them with a curious shark's tooth near an inch long, and in-
dentured or *serrated* on both edges: a scurvy weapon. *Gray.*
SERRATION. *n. f.* [from *serra*, Latin.] Fomation in the
shape of a saw.
SERRATURE. *n. f.* [from *serra*, Latin.] Indenture like teeth
of saws.
These are *serrated* on the edges; but the *serratures* are
deeper and grosser than in any of the rest. *Wedward.*
To *SERRY*. *v. a.* [from *serra*, French; *serrare*, Italian.] To press
close; to drive hard together. For *serry* *Bacon* uses *serr*; but
neither *serr* nor *serry* are received.
With them rose
A forest huge of spears; and thronging helms
Appear'd, and *serr'd* shields in thick array,
Of death immeasurable. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Foul dissipation follow'd, and fore'd rout;
Nor serv'd it to relax their *serr'd* files. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
SERVANT. *n. f.* [from *servant*, French; *servus*, Latin.]
1. One who attends another, and acts at his command. The
correlative of master.
We are one in fortune; both
Fell by our *servants*, by those men we lov'd most. *Shakespeare.*
I had rather be a country *servant* maid,
Than a great queen with this condition. *Shakespeare. R. III.*
He disdain'd not
Thenceforth the form of *servant* to assume. *Milton.*
For master or for *servant* here to call
Was all alike, where only two were all. *Dryden.*
2. One in a state of subjection. Unusual.
Being unprepar'd,
Our will became the *servant* to defect,
Which else should free have wrong'd. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
3. A word of civility used to superiors or equals.
This subjection, due from all men to all men, is something
more than the compliment of course, when our betters tell us
they are our humble *servants*, but understand us to be their
slaves. *Swift.*
To *SERVANT*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To subject. Not in use.
My affairs
Are *servanted* to others: though I owe
My revenge properly, remission lies
In Volscian breasts. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*
To *SERVE*. *v. a.* [from *servi*, French; *servis*, Latin.]
1. To attend at command.
Because thou art my brother, shouldst thou therefore *serve*
me for nought? *Gen. xxix. 15.*
A goddels among gods ador'd, and *serv'd*
By angels numberless, thy daily train. *Milton.*
2. To obey fervently or meanly.
When wealthy, shew thy wisdom not to be
To wealth a servant, but make wealth *serve* thee. *Denham.*
3. To supply with food ceremoniously.
Others, pamper'd in their shameless pride,
Are *serv'd* in plate, and in their chariots ride. *Dryden.*
4. To bring as a menial attendant.
Bid them cover the tables, *serve* in the meat, and we will
come in to dinner. *Shakespeare. Merchant of Venice.*
Soon after our dinner was *serv'd* in, which was right good
viands, both for bread and meat: we had also drink of three
sorts, all wholesome and good. *Bacon.*
Besuited with the horrid juice of sepia, they danced a lit-
tle in phantastick postures, retired a while, and then returned
serv'ing up a banquet as at solemn funerals. *Taylor.*
Some part he roasts; then *serve* it up so dress'd,
And bids me welcome to this humble feast:
Mov'd with disdain,
I with avenging flames the palace burn'd. *Dryden.*
The same mess should be *serv'd* up again for supper, and
breakfast next morning. *Aubin. History of John Bull.*
5. To be subservient or subordinate to.
Bodies bright and greater should not *serve*
The less not bright. *Milton.*
6. To supply with any thing.
They that *serve* the city, shall *serve* it out of all the tribes
of Israel. *Ezek. xlviii. 10.*
7. To